(c) Details of grants-in-aid sanctioned during the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the year | Amount sanctioned |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1998-99 | 407.48 |
| 2. | 1999-2000 | 901.00 |
| 3. | 2000-2001 | 489.30 |

**Steep fall in international tourists**

589. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep downfall in international tourists into the country which affected tourism industry;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of foreign exchange; and

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to assure foreign tourists about the security and other related aspects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) There has been a decline in foreign tourist arrivals to the extent of 2.2per cent during January and October, 2001 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism in January to October, 2001 is Rs. 11750 crores as compared to Rs. 11369 crores earned during the same period of the previous year. However, the growth rate in foreign exchange earnings is 3.3per cent in January to October, 2001 as compared to the growth rate of 8.6 per cent achieved during January to October, 2000.

(c) Efforts have been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. Government's message at the World Tourism Mart, 2001 held in London was that the situation in India

was absolutely normal and there was no fear about safety and security of tourists.

**Development of pilgrim places in Maharashtra**

590. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the pilgrim places developed during the last three years in Maharashtra; and

(b) the amount of grants sanctioned for each such pilgrim place and the amounts utilised during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) During the last 3 years *viz.* 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, following projects/schemes have been sanctioned and amounts released for development of pilgrim centres in the State of Maharashtra:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Name of the Project | Year | Amount Sanctioned | Amount Released |
|---|---|---|---|
| Upgradation of Restaurant, tourist reception area etc. at Pilgrims Inn, Shirdi | 1998-99 | 25.00 | 9.00 |
| Wayside amenities at Ranjangaon | 1999-2000 | 48.68 | 14.60 |
| Yatri Niwas at Jyotiba | 1999-2000 | 48.39 | 14.50 |
| Yatri Niwas at Lenyandri | 2000-2001 | 48.68 | 14.60 |
| Yatri Niwas at Nanded | 2000-2001 | 50.00 | 15.00 |

**Visa-on-arrival scheme for foreign tourists**

591. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state: